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W4NZC	Ken Cannaday	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
-	Lloyd Burt	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

Some rain has finally arrived in the Charlotte area. Maybe that will improve everyone's RF ground and get some more DX contacts for all! At least the morning in Shelby only got light rain. There were lots of CDXA folks out looking over the equipment on Saturday in Shelby.

Jack Guion has found a spot for the Christmas Party and we've set the date for Thursday, Dec. 12th. More information as the date approaches, but this restaurant has the gold seal from several local CDXA members.

Our globe trotting QSL Bureau Manager, Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, has agreed to present his experiences in Myanmar at a meeting to be arranged in October. Details will follow in next month's Pileup.

Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF, has proposed a certificate for anyone who

makes over 500 contacts between the Phone and CW portions of the CQ WorldWide contest this year. The effort is to encourage a larger participation by CDXA members and thus to raise the Club score in the final listings when reported in CQ magazine.

The club needs you. We have three officers' slot to fill for 2003. If you're interested, talk to Bob Burton, our nominations chair, or one of the current officers. We have a very creative membership and I can assure you that the officers do not do all the work. As you can see from the Pileup, lots of great ideas come from the membership.

73, Bill, W4WNT

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

A Note From "Up North"

This note came in from Ed Swiderski, KU4BP following last month's Pileup:

Saw my name in the August "Pileup" for WAZ Checking and WAS. Thanks. I have another thing for you. Last year I started the "Worked All North Carolina Counties" Award (WANC). Rules and sample certificate are on my website shown below:

<http://home.triad.rr.com/ku4bp/main.html>

I visited Ed's website after reading his letter. Besides an explanation of the award, Ed has a nice website. If you're a county hunter, you should look over the WANC award Ed now administers. —The Editor, K8YC

Pfun with a Pun

By now, I'll bet some of you are almost having pfun with puns. So, here's another one for you.

An indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long thin strip of elk hide and gave it to the chief, instructing him to bite off, chew and swallow an inch of leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."

When you just can't stand another pun, let me know, or better yet, give me some humor material worth printing.

The Pileup

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC
1929 Ewing Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203

More on DXCC Awards

After listing some CDXA member's accomplishments as extracted from the DXCC yearbook in August's PILEUP, I discovered or was informed of people who I'd left off the list. It is a risk I run in trying to dig out all of our members from such a list. Yet, I am happy to correct my shortfalls. Here are some additional CDXA members warranting kudos for their attainments in chasing DX:

Category: All SSB Contacts. (Callsign, count)
W4UW, 345; W4UNP, 343; W4VHF, 343

Category: All CW contacts. (Callsign, count)
W4UW, 324

Category: 160 Meter contacts. (Callsign, count)
W4UW, 142

Category: 80 Meter contacts. (Callsign, count)
W4UW, 143

Category: 40 Meter contacts. (Callsign, count)
W4UW, 191

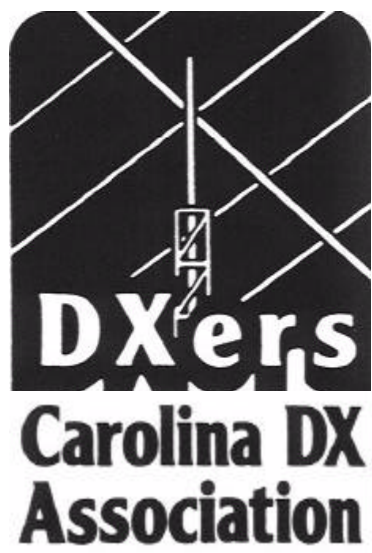
Category: 20 Meter contacts. (Callsign, count)
W4UW, 318

Category: 17, 15, 12, 10, 6 Meter contacts.
(Callsign, count, band) W4UW, 273, 15

Dick Genaille wrote me to remind me that a ready source for this material is the DXCC Award Credit Slip that each of us has returned to us when we file our QSL cards with the DXCC desk. Using this slip would provide an authoritative count and spare someone from the task of staring at the DXCC yearbook for hours on end. The only downside is that I don't believe submissions before the DXCC software was employed at ARRL are properly captured. Are you willing to send me a copy of your Award Credit Slip? Do you even care if we list DXCC or other award levels? Contact me at k8yc@adelphia.net as to whether you care one way or another. —The Editor, K8YC

Lend a Helping Hand

The AA4ZZ Mountaintop crew will be on location for the September VHF QSO party on Sept. 14-15. Find them at 146.49 or 146.55 Mhz or at 50.125 to 50.150 Mhz. Better yet, join the contest and submit your score as a member of CDXA. Your score combined with AA4ZZ's should put CDXA in the limelight!!



The Pileup

Second Front Page

“Contest Within A Contest” Has New Format for 2002

CQWW-SSB
October 26-27, 2002

CQWW-CW
November 23-24, 2002

Purpose: Develop maximum participation from CDXA Members in both CQWW-SSB and CQWW-CW contests in the interest of fun and promoting CDXA Club score.

Method: Work a combined total of 500 QSOs in one or both of the CQWW contests and submit your logs/summary sheets to CQ Communications as a member affiliated with CDXA. Send only your score with score breakdown to the CDXA contest organizer.

Awards: Each person submitting entries to both CQ Communications and CDXA claiming 500 or more QSO's will receive a commemorative certificate suitable for framing from CDXA. Individuals claiming HIGHEST individual scores in EACH of the SSB and CW contest will receive an embroidered CDXA shirt of their choice.

Entry: Scores with scoring breakdown (total QSOs, total countries, total zones) similar to the Summary Sheet required for official contest entry must be submitted to W4VHF (tgoldthorpe@infoave.net) no later than December 5, 2002. All those qualifying for certificates, the highest SSB score and the highest CW score will be announced at the CDXA Christmas Party to be held on Thursday, December 12, 2002.

Why are we doing this?

Year	CDXA Score	National Ranking
1999	8,380,897	27th
2000	12,494,946	22nd
2001	15,813,137	17th

As you can see from CDXA performance in past years, we have made steady progress, but have room to prove to our fellow amateurs that CDXA ops know how to work DX. With an organized effort, CDXA should be able to move up in the national rankings. Are you ready to rise to the challenge?

Help available for the asking.

Assistance with contest strategy is available for the asking. Roger Burt, N4ZC, wrote an excellent article on CQWW contest strategy. It is in the October, 2000 issue of the Pileup, available from the CDXA website archives. Or, let us know, and we'll send it to you via email (or hardcopy if you're computer challenged). Need advice on a contesting program? Let us know.

Roving Reporter finds N4JJ

In the August Pileup, the Editor highlighted the DXCC achievements of a number of CDXA members. After the list was compiled, one callsign, N4JJ, stood out as being present in each category cited. The Editor dispatched the "Roving Reporter" to Florence, SC to talk to Jack Jackson, N4JJ, about his ham radio operating experiences.

Roving Reporter: Well Jack, the editor sent me here to find out about the quiet pursuit of excellence you've been undertaking here in Florence. How long have you been at the DX game?

N4JJ: I didn't really get started in the DX game when I first became a ham. However, I did get my first taste of working DX shortly after being licensed when I worked a KZ5 from the Panama Canal Zone as a Novice on 80 meters. Actually, I'd been a ham for eight years when K4DY and K4CIA got me interested in DXing. In 1970, those two guys got me interested in the North Carolina DX Association. That was before the days of PacketCluster and 2 meter nets for spotting DX. We had a coded call method using collect telephone calls to notify our members about the presence of a DX on frequency. The first name of the called party told what band the DX was on and last name told what frequency he was near. Of course, the called party was never home!! The person getting the collect call would in turn call the next few people on the list asking for the same non-existent party, and so on. You'll recall those were the days when a long distance telephone call was not as inexpensive as it is today.

RR: How did you get started as a ham and what did you do in the early years?

N4JJ: I had two wonderful "elmers" back then. They were W4YLX and W4PNZ. Because I was so far from an FCC examination location, they administered my Amateur License examination here in Florence. I received my license on December 4, 1962. Those two guys really helped spur my interest in those early days. In the first eight years, I occupied much of my time with handling traffic. Many of the transmitters of that era were "rock-bound" (crystal controlled). I upgraded to General class in May, 1963 and picked up a VFO and a "bug" at a Greenville, SC hamfest. Over the years, I became fairly proficient at CW speeds around 50WPM

while working on the various CW nets.

RR: What did your first station look like?

N4JJ: I had a Heathkit DX-35 for a transmitter and a Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver. The DX-35 was crystal controlled until I got the VFO within a year of being licensed. I then moved to other rigs over the years. Most of my early operating was on 80 meters using wire antennas.

RR: Your counts in the DXCC lists are impressive. Did you start slowly or did you get off to a running start after becoming interested in DXing?

N4JJ: Things got off to a pretty fast start. I had 5BWAS (#102) and 5BDXCC ((#198) in 1972 using wire antennas. I've always had a preference for the low bands. I guess it goes back to my early days in the traffic nets. I have DXCC-160m (#13).

RR: I guess that means you spend a lot of time on the radio in darkness?

N4JJ: You're right there, but not as much as you might think. I do enjoy the fall hunting season, as well as the December holiday season, so most of my serious listening happens in January, February, and March when the nights are long anyway. If you're a low band DXer, the sunrise and sunset times are the ones when you've got to be in the shack.

RR: What does your station look like today?

N4JJ: In terms of equipment, it's not as fancy as you might think. My workhorse is an ICOM 751A aided by a Dentron MLA2500 linear amplifier. I have an ICOM 706, too. What I'm really blessed with here in Florence is a nice quiet location as regards RF, and an antenna system which I've built up over the years.

RR: What is your antenna setup?

N4JJ: For the high bands, I have a 108 foot tall tower topped with a TA33 triband beam on a 10 foot mast. Below that, down about 8 feet, is a WARC-band rotary dipole. Down another two feet is a 40 meter rotary dipole. For 6m and 2m work, I have a 45 foot tall tower with a 6 element, 6 meter beam and an 11 element, 2 meter beam. I have an inverted-vee along with a three element phased vertical array for 80 meters. On 160

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

meters, I shunt feed the tower (15,000 feet of radials) and have an inverted vee at 100 feet for diversity. A switchable four EWE array for 80/160 helps me on receive.

RR: Well that explains things a bit. The old adage, "You gotta hear 'em to work 'em" really rings true here. We're all pleased with your success, Jack.

N4JJ: Thanks. I've been meaning to stop by the CDXA luncheons for some time. I am sometimes up in Charlotte on business, but usually getting away during the day hasn't worked. I expect to take an early retirement from BellSouth after working there for 33+ years. I definitely will make it a point to make a luncheon in the future.

RR: We'll be looking for you!



Grayline Software Cited

Bob Burton, N4PQX, writes....

Check this website out: <http://www.dxatlas.com/>
Very nice grayline program. Shareware to an extent, works for 30 days anyway unless registered and only \$30. Even already has Ducie Island in it. This is the nicest one I've seen for the money.

I didn't download it, but talking with Bob, he tells me you can even push the date ahead to see what grayline looks like for future dates if you're setting up a sked for that rare one you need. —The Editor, K8YC

A New Wrinkle for a Contest

To: Contesting Club Presidents and Newsletter Editors
From: Northern California Contest Club (NCCC)

California QSO Party (CQP) 2002

1600Z October 5, 2002 until 2200Z October 6, 2002

Start your contest season with a bang and compete for our new club award in the California QSO Party (CQP). This year we have a new plaque for the highest scoring entry in "Top Club, non-California".

All California QSO Party rules, results, county abbreviations, and free logging software are available at:

<http://www.cqp.org/>

Read all about the 2001 CQP contest results (only six non-CA clubs entered the 2001 CQP):

<http://www.cqp.org/Results-2001.html>

Awards available in CQP:

- * 34 Plaques (wood and metal, not mere wallpaper!)
- * 40 Bottles of special vintage California wine (with commemorative CQP labels)
- * Certificates to the top S/O in each and every state, province, country, and CA county
- * Certificates to each and every ham who makes at least 100 QSOs in CQP

—Marc, W6ZZZ (sponsor of the CQP "Top Club, non-California" plaque)

With a bottle of California's fine wine at stake, and only 6 non-Californian entries last year, this may be a quest worth pursuing!! —The Editor, K8YC



A woman can also be a radioamateur! Me and my big mouth...

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The Back Page

Time to start thinking “contests” for the 2002-3 contesting season. The September 2002 issue of CQ Magazine cites the contest rules for the **CQ WorldWide** contests starting on page 102. The Phone contest will be on October 26-27 and the CW contest will be on November 23-24. A new format for the **Contest Within a Contest** run by the Carolina DX Association is on tap for this year’s CQWW contest. See more inside on the “Second Front Page”.

The **mountaintoppers** of AA4ZZ will be at it again on September 14-15 for the September VHF QSO party. This contest allows scoring as a club. So please work the gang from AA4ZZ and consider working the contest yourself. Your QSO with AA4ZZ will help your score, help AA4ZZ’s score and help the Club’s score when you submit your contest log to ARRL. Details on how to find them are found at the bottom of Page 2, inside.

DXCC Announces 30-Meter Award (Sep 4, 2002) -- The ARRL DXCC Desk has announced the addition of a 30-meter (10-MHz) single-band DXCC award. Applications for this award will be accepted starting October 1. The 30-meter DXCC certificates will be dated but not numbered. Thirty-meter credits will count toward the DeSoto Cup competition and included in the DXCC Annual List totals for the period ending September 30, 2003. A 30-meter endorsement to 5-Band DXCC also will be available. The 30-meter band was added to the standard DXCC printout in January 2002. If you have received a copy of your record since then, you already have a copy of your 30-meter credits. If you don't have a record of your 30-meter credits, contact DXCC for a copy. These are also available as Adobe PDF documents from DXCC office.

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC
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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W4NZC at once, please.